

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, OECD
SUBJECT: GSP: TRADE COMMITTEE WORKING PARTY DISCUSSION
OF UNCTAD'S GSP CONSULTATION PROCEDURE
REF: PARIS 9497

1. TRADE COMMITTEE WORKING PARTY, WHICH DISCUSSED
UNCTAD CONSULTATION PROCEDURES FOR GSP, AGREED THAT
NO NEW CONSULTATIVE PROCEDURES ARE NECESSARY, EITHER
IN CAPITALS OR GENEVA, AND THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH
GSP RECIPIENT COUNTRIES SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN THE
SAME FRAMEWORK AS IN THE PAST. THIS VIEW WAS HELD
BY ALL DELEGATIONS THAT SPOKE AT MEETING (INCLUDING
U.S., EC AND JAPAN). IT WAS ALSO GENERALLY AGREED
THAT UNCTAD PREFERENCES MEETINGS SHOULD BE HELD ON
AN ANNUAL BASIS, ATTENDED ONLY BY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTA-
TIVES, AND THAT THE DONOR COUNTRIES SHOULD EXPLORE
WAYS TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING CONSULTATIVE PROCEDURES.
THREE POSSIBLE METHODS OF IMPROVING PROCEDURES WERE
DISCUSSED: A) ORGANIZING THE PREFERENCES MEETINGS
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SO THAT THE GSP SCHEME OF EACH DONOR COUNTRY WOULD BE
CONSIDERED SEPARATELY, IN TURN (SUGGESTED BY U.S.);
B) HOLDING UNOFFICIAL MEETINGS DURING THE PREFERENCE
MEETING IN SEPARATE ROOMS BETWEEN BENEFICIARIES AND
ONE DONOR COUNTRY, WITH NO REPORTS OR CONCLUSIONS
BEING ISSUED (SUGGESTED BY FRANCE); AND (C) URGING
BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES TO FOCUS MORE ON CURRENTLY

AVAILABLE, BUT UNEXPLOITED, BENEFITS OF VARIOUS GSPS
RATHER THAN SEEKING CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT (SUGGESTED
BY SWEDEN).

2. THE EC WAS CONCERNED THAT U.S. SUGGESTION FOR
SEPARATE CONSIDERATION OF VARIOUS GSPS MIGHT ENCOURAGE
RESOLUTIONS ON A SPECIFIC GSP, RATHER THAN ON ALL
GSPS AS GROUP. THIS SENTIMENT WAS ALSO VOICED BY
SEVERAL OTHER DELEGATES. HOWEVER, DELEGATES WERE
UNANIMOUS IN BELIEF THAT DONOR COUNTRIES MUST CONTINUE
TO RESIST ANY SUCH SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS. EC DELEGATE
STATED AFTER THE MEETING THAT THE U.S. SUGGESTION
WAS THE MAXIMUM EC COULD ACCEPT, AND THAT HE EXPECTED
THAT IT WOULD BE THE FINAL SOLUTION ADOPTED BETWEEN
DONORS AND RECIPIENTS. JAPANESE DEL IN GENERAL WAS
EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS AND DID NOT TAKE FIRM POSITION ON
ANY SUGGESTION FOR CHANGES IN PROCEDURES.

3. NEXT STEP WILL BE CONSIDERATION BY CAPITALS OF
THREE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING EXISTING PROCEDURES,
FOLLOWED BY FURTHER DISCUSSION IN GENEVA BETWEEN THE
UNCTAD SECRETARIAT AND THE DONOR COUNTRIES AS A GROUP.
(UNCTAD SECRETARIAT HAS SCHEDULED SEPARATE MEETINGS
ON SUBJECT WITH GROUP B (APRIL 11), GROUP D (APRIL 12)
AND G-77 (APRIL 13).)

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